

mouths and all that we believe in our hearts will be translated into deeds of concern and acts of love.

Help us, gracious God, to make our lives vital and with special purpose by making faith active in love. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CAPPS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### WHISTLE-BLOWER PROTECTIONS FOR NURSES

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, the House will soon act on managed-care reform. In this debate we must protect the whistle-blowing rights for nurses and health professionals.

Patients depend on nurses to ensure they receive proper care. Nurses who see the health of their patients endangered should feel 100 percent confident that they can voice their concerns without retaliation from their employers.

I have been a registered nurse for over 30 years. I understand firsthand how difficult it is to come forward and report abuses, situations which compromise the quality of care. No one should feel that their job is in jeopardy because they speak on behalf of the safety of their patients.

Let us show our support for nurses and healthcare professionals. Support the whistle-blower language in the bipartisan Norwood-Dingell managed-care bill.

#### PRESIDENT SHOULD VETO NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY AMENDMENTS OF 1999

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, Senate bill 1287, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments of 1999, has been introduced in the United States Senate. Al-

though this bill would not establish a temporary nuclear storage facility in Nevada, you should be aware of its misguided attempts to deal with the permanent disposal of nuclear waste.

The passage of this legislation would place unneeded and dangerous environmental, safety, and health risks upon millions of Americans. Therefore, I would urge the President to uphold his commitment to Nevada and the American people by reaffirming his veto promise.

Senate bill 187 would accelerate the time line for permanent disposal at Yucca Mountain, ignoring the ongoing scientific studies and our Nation's environmental laws that were designed to protect its citizens. It would also allow the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, not the EPA, to establish dangerous radiation standards. Such a change in law would facilitate contamination of groundwater supplies and endanger all Americans along the transportation routes with higher dosage of deadly radiation, ultimately destroying the lives of American families.

Mr. President, where is your promise? The American people deserve to hear your voice on this critically important issue.

#### JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HELPING CHINESE COMMUNISTS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, first it was Ruby Ridge and Waco, now it is Chinese money laundering. The Justice Department continues to cover up the truth.

FBI Agent Parker testified that 27 pages of her notebook detailing crimes on Charlie Trie were stolen. Agent Parker also said that the Justice Department blocked a search warrant allowing Charlie Trie to destroy bank records and money transfers from the Bank of China that ended up at the Democrat National Committee.

Think about it. The Justice Department is now covering up the truth, helping Chinese communists.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker.

It is time for a full independent investigation, not another investigation appointed by Janet Reno.

I yield back the crimes at the Justice Department.

#### ENDING THE 30-YEAR RAID ON THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

(Mr. ARMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, for over 30 years Washington big spenders have been raiding the Social Security trust

funds to feed the greed for a bigger, more bloated government.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time to "Stop the Raid." This Republican Congress has committed itself to protecting every dime of Social Security.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the President wants to spend the Social Security surplus. According to his most recent budget, he wants \$1 trillion in new government spending in the next 10 years. He can only do that, Mr. Speaker, by spending from the Social Security surplus.

In fact, according to the Congressional Budget Office, his budget would spend \$57 billion of the Social Security surplus next year alone.

Mr. Speaker, we will seize this historic opportunity and we will, for the first time in over 30 years, restore the integrity of the Social Security trust fund and honor our children as they pay those taxes for grandma and grandpa's retirement and stop the raid on Social Security.

#### REGARDING EDUCATION AND THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, we are facing a tragedy in this country's education system. Now, I am not talking about the fact that children are being forced to learn in school buildings that are literally falling apart, in classes whose size are literally bursting at the seams. I am not talking about the fact that tens of thousands of children are being kept out of Head Start or the fact that hundreds of thousands of children are losing after-school programs. I am not talking about the fact that some areas, like Sunset Park in my district, do not even have high schools, making access to education difficult, if not impossible.

No, these facts make us mad; they make us angry. They make parents around the country shake their heads and wonder just what exactly we are doing in this body. But these are not the tragedies I am talking about.

The tragedy is that we know what we need to do, but, thanks to the Republican leadership, we are not doing it. In fact, judging by the Labor-HHS bill they are trying to pass, we are moving backwards, while another generation of our youth is in danger of being lost, and that is the tragedy.

#### ENFORCE EXISTING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM LAWS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, we have been hearing a lot lately about campaign finance reform. However, some of